

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
AID-05 EB-08 IO-14 USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05
HEW-06 SIG-02 OIC-02 OES-07 /123 R

DRAFTED BY USDA/JHALLQUIST/FMAGRABI:IO/AGR:JSWOLF:DKS
APPROVED BY IO/AGR:PJBYRNES
EB/OF:FMCELDFOWNEY
AID/IA:MFOREMAN
WHITE HOUSE:EPETERSON
WHITE HOUSE:JFILL
IO/ML:MJACOBS
AF/I:LSLEZAK (SUBS)
EUR/RPE:PMCLEAR (SUBS)
ARA/ECP:LPETERS (SUBS)
EA/RA:LMCNUIT (SUBS)
HEW/NIH:APSIMOPOLOS
IO/OIC:HWBURGESS (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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ROME FOR FODAG, USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OVIP, FAO

SUBJECT:FAO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION
POLICIES, SECOND SESSION, ROME, MARCH 6-10, 1978

REF: STATE 37533 (NOTAL)

1. THE USG ATTACHES PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO UPCOMING
MEETING OF FAO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION
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POLICIES BECAUSE OF FAO'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL ROLE IN
ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. CONSIDERABLE
ATTENTION WAS DEVOTED TO NUTRITION IN JUNE 1977 MANILA
COMMUNIQUE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND AGENDA OF 1978
WFC MINISTERIAL ALSO SPECIFICALLY FOCUSES ON
NUTRITION. PRESIDENT CARTER, IN SPEECH TO THE UNGA IN
SEPTEMBER 1977 AND HIS 1978 STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE
STRESSED OUR COMMITMENT TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS APPROACH AND
TO IMPROVING NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING. TO DATE FAO HAS
NOT GIVEN ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO NUTRITION AND WE FEEL
NOW CONCRETE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO FIND NEW WAYS TO
BETTER DEAL WITH QUESTIONS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

2. IN VIEW IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO MEETING, WE ARE
PLANNING TO HAVE U.S. DELEGATION BE HEADED BY ESTHER
PETERSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT.

SHE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL U.S. EXPERTS IN
NUTRITION. ALTHOUGH FIRST SESSION OF THIS COMMITTEE
WAS ATTENDED LARGELY BY GOVERNMENTS' PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME, WE WOULD HOPE THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS
WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SEND NUTRITIONISTS AND OTHER

APPROPRIATE EXPERTS TO THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. WE WOULD HOPE ALSO THAT EXPERTS AT THIS MEETING COULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR FAO DECISIONS ON FUTURE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ALSO SERVE TO GUIDE DISCUSSIONS BY MINISTERS AT JUNE WFC MEETING.

3. IN THE FIELD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE NO ACTIVITY HAS A HIGHER PRIORITY IN OUR VIEW THAN EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RETARDATION CAUSED BY HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. WE BELIEVE THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATELY NUTRITIOUS DIET IS A BASIC RIGHT OF EVERYONE AND A BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL GOVERNMENTS. WE SEE THIS MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STIMULATE FAO AND ENHANCE ITS ABILITY

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TO MEET ITS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP IN CARRYING OUT WFC CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS BY OBTAINING APPROPRIATE POLICIES, CLEAR DIRECTIVES, SOUNDLY CONCEIVED PROGRAMS, AND ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS. USG HAS REVIEWED FAO NUTRITION PROGRAM AND PLANS TO MAKE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT AT THIS MEETING:

A. USG RECOMMENDS COMMITTEE SHOULD AGREE ON A CLEAR DELINEATION OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF FAO IN RELATION TO NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REFLECTIVE OF THE NEED FOR FAO TO PROVIDE MORE POSITIVE LEADERSHIP TO UN SYSTEMIC APPROACHES TO NUTRITION. WE FEEL THIS MUST INCLUDE BOTH FAO'S REGULAR PROGRAM AND EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES. SUGGEST THAT APPROPRIATE ROLES FOR FAO IN NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT ARE:

-- MAINTENANCE OF A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR DATA COMPILATION AND DISSEMINATION;

-- ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES; AND

-- ASSISTANCE TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN FOOD AND NUTRITION DATA COLLECTION, PROGRAM PLANNING, AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DEVELOPING LOCAL SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS TO EFFECT IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH AND SANITATION AND APPROPRIATE SELECTION AND UTILIZATION OF FOOD BY HOUSEHOLDS, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS.

B. IN LIGHT OF FAO CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 8/77 ON NUTRITION, MECHANISMS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN FAO

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FOR:

-- EVALUATING THE NUTRITIONAL IMPACT OF APPROPRIATE ONGOING PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THOSE NOT SPECIFICALLY TARGETED ON NUTRITION;

-- IDENTIFYING IN ALL APPROPRIATE NEW PROGRAMS SPECIFIC NUTRITIONAL OBJECTIVES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE POOREST COUNTRIES AND FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS;

-- OBTAINING INFORMATION IN-DEPTH TO ASSESS THE NUTRITIONAL IMPACT OF SELECTED PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS;

-- INITIATING OR STRENGTHENING OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE MOST EFFECTIVE IN ALLEVIATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION; AND

-- REPORTING TO FAO MEMBERS ON A REGULAR BASIS DATA ON RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH FAO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO IDENTIFIABLE NUTRITION OBJECTIVES AND RESULTING PROGRESS IN THE ALLEVIATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

WHILE COMMITTEE CANNOT DECIDE ON SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONAL, PROGRAM OR BUDGETARY CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT THE NUTRITION RESOLUTION, SINCE THAT PROPERLY THE PREROGATIVE OF THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL, IT SHOULD INDICATE TO THE DG CHANGES HE MAY CONSIDER PROPOSING TO THE AUTUMN 1978 FAO COUNCIL SESSION. PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA AT AUTUMN 1978 COUNCIL SESSION.

C. USG ALSO WILL PROPOSE THAT FAO, AS LEAD AGENCY IN ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, INITIATE PLANS FOR AND WORK TOWARD A CONSOLIDATED OVERVIEW DOCUMENT FOR NUTRITION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD REFLECT:

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-- A CLEAR DELINEATION OF ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND BY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING BOTH THE FOOD CONSUMPTION AND THE HEALTH AND SANITATION ASPECTS;

-- A SURVEY OF EXISTING AND NEEDED PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

TO SUPPORT SUCH PROGRAMS;

-- THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE NEEDIEST AND MOST
NUTRITIONALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS;

-- EXPERIENCE REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS AND
PROGRAM APPROACHES; AND

-- TABULATION OF RESOURCES BUDGETED FOR NUTRITION BY THE
SEVERAL AGENCIES.

THE DOCUMENT WOULD ASSIST FAO AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE UN
SYSTEM TO PROPOSE MORE COORDINATED PROGRAMS OF WORK
AND ENABLE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO EVALUATE THESE PLANS IN
RELATION TO THE GLOBAL GOAL OF ALLEVIATING HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION.

4. EMBASSIES AT THEIR DISCRETION ARE REQUESTED TO SHARE
THIS INFORMATION WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS AND URGE THAT
COUNTRIES, EITHER VIA TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED DELEGATIONS
FROM CAPITALS OR VIA INSTRUCTIONS TO ROME REPS, TAKE
SIMILAR ADVANTAGE OF THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. ACTION
ADDRESSEES THROUGH BELGRADE ARE ALL WFC MEMBERS AND THIS
MEETING SHOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST GIVEN IMPACT ON
WFC SESSION IN JUNE (REFTEL). IN VIEW OF HIGH LEVEL USG
ATTENTION THIS MEETING REQUEST ALL POSTS REPLY BY COB
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MARCH 1.

5. FOR ROME FODAG. YOU MAY ALSO SHARE FOREGOING IN-
FORMATION WITH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME AND
WITH FAO SECRETARIAT. VANCE

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